UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/C.5/47/12
1 October 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session
FIFTH COMMITTEE
Agenda item 104

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

Organization of editorial services at United Nations Headquarters

Note by the Secretariat

1. It will be recalled that in its resolution 46/185 C of 20 December 1991, the General Assembly decided to consider at its forty-seventh session the report of the Secretary-General on the organization of editorial services at United Nations Headquarters (A/C.5/46/47), which had been requested by the Committee for Programme and Coordination in paragraph 96 of its report on its thirty-first session (A/46/16 1/).

2. In paragraph 25 of the report on the organization of editorial services, it was noted that "in view of the repeated expressions of intergovernmental concern about the effectiveness of and the rationale for current arrangements, the Secretary-General will also keep under review the question of whether the advantages of the current organization of editorial services continue to outweigh the advantages that might accrue from their consolidation under the Department of Conference Services. This ongoing review will also encompass the role of the editorial units in major author departments and whether or not they promote the effective and efficient use of the limited editorial resources through closer interaction with authors".

3. In the year that has elapsed since the issuance of the above-mentioned report, and as a result of restructuring, the editorial units described therein were moved to reflect the reorganization of the Secretariat along functional lines. Thus, the editorial unit of the Division of General Assembly Affairs (formerly in the Office for Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services) and the disarmament editorial unit (formerly in the Department for Disarmament Affairs) are now located in the new

Department of Political Affairs. The editorial unit for Economic and Social Council Affairs and Secretariat Services (formerly in the Office for Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services) and the unit formerly in the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development were moved to the new Department of Economic and Social Development. The two units in Conference Services (Editorial Control Section and Official Records Editing Section) remain in the Office of Conference Services, which is now part of the Department of Administration and Management.

4. Although these changes have grouped the editorial units along functional lines, it does not affect the question of whether it would be more advantageous, in both substantive and resource terms, to consolidate the services under the Office of Conference Services and this question will be reviewed further in the context of the overall review of the structure of the Secretariat, which is still to be completed. In addition, it will be recalled that the General Assembly, in section VI of its resolution 46/185 B, requested the Secretary-General to review the overall publications policy of the Organization, including its technical aspects, and to submit a report to the Assembly at its forty-eighth session. This review will, inter alia, cover editorial services with regard to publications. In view of the above, the Secretary-General would propose to report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session on the outcome of these reviews and their implications for the organization of editorial services.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 16.